

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India has a contingency plan to manage human cases of Avian Influenza. The plan includes active surveillance, preventive public health measures, clinical management, stockpiling of specific drugs, personal protective equipments and IEC activities.

This plan was operationalized during the outbreak of Avian Flu among poultry in Nundurbar and Jalgaon districts of Maharashtra, Surat District of Gujarat and Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh in February-April, 2006. Due to the coordinated action no human case of avian influenza was reported. This contingency plan would hold good for any reoccurrence of bird flu in human population in the country.

Recognizing foreign medical degree holders

1116. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indians who got their degree in medicine in Russia are not allowed/recognized to practice in India; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. As per the Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Act 2001 and the Medical Council of India Screening Test Regulation 2002, any Indian citizen possessing a primary medical qualification awarded by any medical institutions outside India, who is desirous of getting provisional or permanent registration with Medical Council of India or any State medical Council on or after 15th March, 2002 shall have to qualify in the Screening Test conducted by the prescribed authority for this purpose. The primary medical qualification possessed by the Indian students from foreign university must be a recognized medical qualification in that country in which the institution awarding the said qualification is situated.

Physical and mental deformities among the children of Chhattisgarh

1117. MS. MEBEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of children are borne with physical and mental deformities in the district of Jashpur in Chhattisgarh and in Gumla, Simdega and other tribal districts in Jharkhand;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government intend to conduct some study and taken remedial measures to rectify the problems of these two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) As per census data 2001, the prevalence of disabled children in the States of Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh is not high.

Pesticides level in soft drinks

1118. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:
SHRI AMAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the latest study by the Centre for Science and Environment has found that pesticides level in soft drinks in Delhi is 22 times more than the standard set by the Bureau of Indian Standards, which is highly injurious to health;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action Government have taken against the companies manufacturing those soft drinks and the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) had released a Report on Analysis of Pesticide Residues in Soft Drinks.

In their report CSE had mentioned that a total of 57 soft drink samples of 11 brands were tested for organochlorine pesticides and organophosphorous pesticides. It has been further stated in the report that:—